

## POLICE FORCE FAR TOO SMALL.

### Major Sylvester Explains Outbreak of Crime.

### VAST TERRITORY TO BE COVERED.

### Impossible to Patrol Entire District with Limited Number of Men Employed—Some Recommendations Made.

Major Sylvester, Superintendent of the Police Department of the District of Columbia, gave out today a statement in regard to the recent outbreak of crime in the District. He attributes the cause to the inadequacy of the police force. He makes a strong plea for additional men and the general strengthening of the force.

Regarding the recent homicides and other violations of the law in the District, he calls attention to the fact that the mystery surrounding most of these cases has been cleared away and the guilty ones placed under arrest, with the exception of one case—that involving the murderous assault upon Mrs. Ada Gilbert Dennis, at her home, 1117 K Street northwest, on the morning of December 10.

### Causes of Outbreak in Crime.

Major Sylvester further considers the causes that made such a series of crime possible, and suggests remedies for the existing conditions. Comparisons are made with the showings of other police departments in the country, which are most complimentary to the efficiency of the Washington police force, under Major Sylvester's administration.

The following is Major Sylvester's statement on the subject:

"Stealing will always prevail here. No murderer has gone unapprehended during the present administration of police affairs, while in but one other municipality approaching the size of the District does such a record stand. One negro killed another in the country on the extreme boundary line, a negro child shot another, a murderous and mysterious assault occurred, and a suicide. One of these affairs remains to be cleared, and it is the first mystery which has challenged the detectives in later years.

"Coming all at one time, after months of freedom from tragedies, the conditions alarmed the community.

### More Police Needed.

"The Franklin Square female assault case was a myth; many subjects, pressed by creditors, report they have been robbed, and revenue accounts for numerous assaults. The District should be more numerous police than any other jurisdiction to keep down disasters. The force is insufficient numerically now.

"The District of Columbia, comprising about twenty square miles, 43,420 acres of territory, includes the Metropolitan Police jurisdiction. The police surveillance is not confined to the city of Washington and the city of Georgetown, but includes a vast outlying area which is traversed by various railroad lines, and within which are located the villages of Anacostia, Tenleytown, Brookland, Brightwood, Takoma, Cleveland Park, Langdon, Garfield, and Winthrop Heights, besides extensive institutions which are largely populated and which embrace valuable properties. Aside from these interests the suburban section is built up with hundreds of private residences, with accompanying improvements.

### A Large Police Area.

"The District police area is the fourth largest in the United States, being exceeded by that of Greater New York, Chicago and Philadelphia. Baltimore has less than half the area of the District of Columbia; Boston about half; Cincinnati less than half; Cleveland corresponds with Cincinnati; Detroit is about one-third the size; Louisville about one-fourth; Milwaukee one-third and Pittsburgh slightly in excess of one-third, so that, considering area alone the city of Baltimore, or equally as well patrolled numerically as the District would require a force of about 255 patrolmen. On the other hand, it numbers nearly one thousand.

"Applying the same rule to other municipalities, the District of Columbia, when compared with Louisville, should have a force of 975 policemen, with Cincinnati, 1,048, with Detroit 1,100, with Milwaukee 942, and with Pittsburgh a force of at least 1,000.

### Territory the Proper Basis.

"It might be urged that questions of area should be eliminated in making comparisons and that population alone should be considered. Is it not just as important that the lives and property of the residents in the less densely settled portions of the police territory be guarded as it is in the densely populated sections? If so, it is incumbent on the authorities to patrol the whole area. It is immaterial whether the suburban homes number fifty or one hundred and the population one hundred or two hundred, all must be looked after, and the more extensive the field in which the same are located the more guardians will be required to give it attention within given periods of time, known in police service as 'tricks of duty.'

"In a jurisdiction penetrated by invading forces, which are patrolled by the most prominent people in our land and from abroad, at times, with costly educational edifices, grounds, and parks, it is at once absurd to say that area is not an important factor in calculating requirements for its police supervision.

### The Unpoliced Outskirts.

"Contiguous to Maryland and Virginia, evidences realize the advantage of unpoliced outskirts.

"As to population, the density is not so much an item as social conditions and character. When population is concentrated it is less difficult to exercise police supervision than where it is scattered; and in municipalities where the population is confined to inexpensive districts, so is the police force.

(Continued on Second Page.)

## PENNSYLVANIA TOWN AFIRE.

### Destruction of Connelville's Business Section Threatened.

CONNELLSVILLE, Pa., Dec. 24.—A terrible fire threatens the dense part of the downtown district.

A whole square, enclosed by West Main Street, Arch Street, and Orchard Alley, is burning.

The fire began in a war-room in the rear of Wallace's furniture store, and spread rapidly. Many of the buildings are frame, although one is a brick business block. Neighboring towns are sending fire engines.

The terrified occupants are thronging the street.

A brisk wind fans the fire. The fire has reached the Goldsmith Building, across Pinato Alley, and threatens other valuable buildings on that side of the street.

## SIGNALS AGAINST DISASTER.

### General Chaffee Arranges a Code for Indicating Distress.

Among the precautions taken by the army in the Philippines to meet such accidents as the Balangiga disaster is an order just issued by General Chaffee to the Signal Corps as follows:

"The chief signal office of the division will procure and issue to isolated stations upon the coast with which there is no regular communication and to which no regular boats ply frequently the letters 'A' and 'B' of the internal code of signals meaning, when the letter 'A' is placed on balcony above the letter 'B,' 'Send immediate assistance.' The letter 'D' is a blue pennant with white spot and 'B' a red, swallow tail, burgee.

"Commanders of stations are cautioned to use the signal only when urgently necessary and all boats and ships connected with the army transport service in these lines will do all that is practical to render assistance when asked for by the signals above referred to, which will be made of a suitable size to best serve the purpose for which they are intended."

## BERLIN SEEKING TO SETTLE BOER WAR.

### BIRMINGHAM "POST" SO TOLD.

### Communications Now Passing Between English and German Governments, and Negotiations Are Moving Rapidly.

BIRMINGHAM, Eng., Dec. 24.—The "Post" in a well informed quarter that communications are passing between London and Berlin of a nature which anticipates a settlement of the South African difficulties.

### Officials in Conference.

Count Metternich, the German Ambassador to England, visited the Marquis of Salisbury, the Duke of Devonshire and the Marquis of Lansdowne, at their country seats and left for Berlin yesterday evening.

### Negotiations Progressing Rapidly.

The opinion is expressed in some quarters that negotiations relating to the settlement of the South African war are progressing rapidly.

## TROLLEY CAR AS A TOBOGGAN.

### One Person Killed in Accident in New York.

NEW YORK, Dec. 24.—For four blocks south of Union street the grade is so steep that the Filmore Street electric cars have to be pulled up the hill by special machinery. As a car containing fifteen people had nearly reached the top of the hill last night it broke loose in some manner and rushed down the grade with frightful speed.

The obstruction was crashed into, and wrecked by the runaway car, which then jumped the rails and was brought to a standstill by a telegraph pole, which it struck with terrific force, completely demolishing the car and scattering its occupants in all directions.

Mrs. Mary Phelan, a servant, was taken to Railroad Hospital, where she died from fracture of skull. No one else was hurt.

## LOW TO CHOP OFF HEADS.

### Gen. Leonard A. Wood Mentioned as Devery's Successor.

NEW YORK, Dec. 24.—Mayor-elect Low, having practically filled his cabinet, now is able to devote the week before he takes office to consideration of the changes in policy which he intends to inaugurate.

One of the first things he will do will be to lop off all the unnecessary places, the Tammany sinecures which have been created during the past four years. With the aid of his new commissioners of accounts he will be able to find out pretty quickly what departments hold most of the men who do nothing but draw big salaries, and it is into these departments he will go first to begin house cleaning.

Thus far no one at police headquarters has received the slightest intimation as to whom Col. John N. Partridge has selected to be his first deputy commissioner.

Not a week has passed since Colonel Murphy was named to succeed Colonel Partridge as some candidate for Devery's place has not been mentioned. Now the name of former Fire Chief Hugh Bonner is mentioned.

There is little doubt that Colonel Partridge has made his choice, and it is believed that the choice was made upon the recommendation of President Roosevelt. Both Mayor-elect Low and Colonel Partridge have conferred with the President, and Colonel Partridge has just returned from Washington.

It is believed that Devery's successor will be chosen by Colonel Partridge, and the President at their last meeting and the man was selected then.

Among the men who have been mentioned for the place is Gen. Leonard A. Wood, who came to be spoken of because of his friendship with President Roosevelt.

## LAWYER SHOOTS MAN ON TRIAL.

### Tragedy in Birmingham, Ala., This Morning.

### MADE ATTEMPT TO SHOOT OTHERS.

### Declares His Intention to Kill Everybody in Room, and Fires Four Shots Before He Is Overpowered.

BIRMINGHAM, Ala., Dec. 24.—W. M. Little, an attorney, this morning shot and seriously wounded W. L. Dodd, President of the Southern Mutual Aid Association. Dodd is on trial before United States Commissioner Cornish on a charge of fraudulent use of the mails in connection with the Southern Debenture Company, which was absorbed by the Continental Security Redemption Company.

Little also attempted to shoot James Dodd, his brother.

## Intended Wholesale Murder.

Early today Little, who has been greatly worked up over the charges against W. L. Dodd, entered the room, and, taking hold of a pistol, declared his intention of killing everybody.

He fired five shots before being overpowered.

Little was a consul in Honduras under President Cleveland.

## Cause of the Shooting.

The shooting is supposed to be an indirect outgrowth of the recent failure of the Continental Security Redemption Company of this city, and the feeling which followed that affair.

The president of that company, which absorbed the company of which Dodd was the head, has been criminally indicted, and the case in all its phases had already aroused great interest in this section, and become a sensation of more than local significance.

## CABINET EXCHANGES GREETINGS.

### Holiday Cheer Predominates in Absence of Business.

Consideration of Administration questions was somewhat set aside at the Cabinet meeting today, and Yuletide gossip held sway. The President was in excellent spirits and wished all of the Cabinet officers a merry Christmas.

According to custom, the President will present each of the Cabinet officers with a Christmas remembrance. President McKinley used to present these gifts on Christmas Eve.

The probable accession of Governor Shaw to the Cabinet was not discussed. The status of the civil disturbances in Venezuela is evidently not such as to cause the Administration much worry inasmuch as the subject was not touched on at the meeting today.

The President left the meeting for ten minutes in order to go across the hall to the general offices and shake hands with a "wish-you-a-merry-Christmas" to the clerks and stenographers who were allowed to leave the White House shortly before noon.

## REMEMBERED BY THE PRESIDENT.

### GIFTS FOR WHITE HOUSE HELP.

### Mr. Roosevelt Distributes Christmas Presents to All—He May Visit Fort Monroe in Despatch Boat Dolphin.

The season of Christmas festivity at the White House began today. Every married man employed in any capacity around the mansion received a fine turkey. Those who were not married received various little remembrances from the President and Mrs. Roosevelt. Not one was forgotten. Every time the President encountered one of the attaches it was "Merry Christmas" in so hearty a tone that there was no doubt of his sincerity.

## President's Christmas Greetings.

During the Cabinet meeting the President had occasion to go to one of the office rooms on the other side of the ante-room from his own office. All the clerks he greeted heartily with best wishes for a merry Christmas. As he passed back through the ante-room, where a number of people were waiting, he stopped, waved his hand jovially, and exclaimed, "Merry Christmas to all of you, gentlemen."

Christmas Day will be spent quietly at the White House. That is, it will be spent as quietly as it can be, when there is a large family of exuberant children on hand. The old mansion will be a merrier place than it has for many years. The Roosevelt children have made it very lively today with their play, but their enthusiasm will probably be redoubled tomorrow after they have received gifts from their father and mother.

## Will Attend Divia Service.

The President will go to church in the morning, attending service at Grace Church on Fifteenth Street. In the afternoon he will either ride or drive, accompanied by his oldest son, Theodore, Jr., who has been much with his father since he came home for the holidays from school at Groton, Mass.

The Christmas dinner will be served at the usual hour in the evening. No invitations have been issued formally, but a number of friends will be invited to share the repast.

## May Use the Dolphin.

Although no definite plans have been arranged, the President may occupy the latter part of the week with a trip down the river on the Dolphin. In case he does decide to get away from Washington by this route, the destination will be Fort Monroe.

Theodore, Jr., is planning to go on a hunting trip with Dr. Riley some time between Christmas and New Year Day.

Flynn's Business College, 8th and K. Business, shorthand, typewriting—\$25 a year.

## ARGENTINA DESIRES PEACE.

### Advices From American Minister Announce Arbitration.

William P. Lord, Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of the United States to the Argentine Republic, in a communication to the State Department this morning, says that Argentina has withdrawn her demand on Chile for an explanation and has passed the subject over to arbitration. He adds that diplomatic relations have not been broken off between the two countries, a charge of defiance of Argentina remaining at Santiago de Chile. It is said, however, that the quarrel between these two countries may end in open hostilities.

Chile, for some time, has felt that she was better calculated to guide the destinies of unappropriated territory than any other country in the southern continent. It is this feeling, South American diplomats say, that has prompted Chile to accuse Argentina of aggression in Tierra del Fuego.

That the arbitration of the difference is to be left to Great Britain is agreeable to the Administration. No danger of any attempt to gain prestige in South America is feared from Great Britain while in this respect Germany would be under suspicion. However, though the State Department is inclined to hope for the best, it does not feel at all sure that such fortunate outcome may result.

A London news agency despatched from Buenos Ayres, says the Chilean Minister to Argentina, proposed a conciliatory formula, to which it is stated Dr. Alcora, the Argentine Minister of Foreign Affairs, replied that his country adhered to her proposals and if Chile accepted them the disagreement would end.

## CHAIR OF CHINESE NOT OFFERED TO WU.

### MINISTER DISCUSSES THE MATTER.

### Says Columbia University Has Tendered Him No Place in Faculty. References to the Death of Hsu Shoupeng.

"Why should I accept the chair of Chinese language and literature at the Columbia University, New York, recently endowed by Gen. Horace W. Carpenter?" asked Wu Ting-fang, the Chinese Minister, this morning, when questioned about the matter by a Times reporter.

## Mr. Wu Asks Many Questions.

"Has the chair been offered me?" continued Minister Wu. "How can I accept it, if it has not been offered me? Can you tell if you are going to get married, and whom you are going to marry? Can you tell how many children you are going to have, and whether you are going to marry the girl you want, or what professions you are going to bring the boys up in? No.

"Well, then, neither can I tell whether I am going to accept the chair of Chinese language and literature at the Columbia University. Can you tell me if they are going to offer it to me? No? Well, then, I cannot accept."

## Death of Hsu Shoupeng.

When asked in regard to the death of Hsu Shoupeng, first vice president of the newly-organized foreign office in China, and who was at one time a secretary of the Chinese legation in Washington, Minister Wu queried:

"When did he die? Wasn't it in October? Was he secretary of the legation here? Well, yes, he was one time my secretary. He is dead now, poor fellow. Just say he was a good fellow."

## GEN. ALGER DOING VERY WELL.

### Continued Absence of Alarming Symptoms Gives Family Hope.

DETROIT, Mich., Dec. 24.—Continued absence of alarming symptoms gives General Alger's family and doctors hope that he will pull through.

He is eating nothing, the intention being to give his stomach absolute rest for at least forty-eight hours, and perhaps longer.

He is occasionally given a teaspoonful of salt and water. His pulse keeps at 75, with temperature 98.5 to 100. One of the physicians said:

"Every precaution known to most advanced medical surgery has been taken. Mr. Alger has every chance that modern medical practice can give him."

The morning report says:

"The general is doing very well."

## HENRY W. FRARY ASSIGNS.

### Firm Was Considered One of the Most Successful in Street.

NEW YORK, Dec. 24.—Henry W. Frary, a broker at 50 Broadway, assigned today for the benefit of creditors, to Robert P. Orr.

The firm has been dealing in stocks and bonds at 50 Broadway for about four years. Previous to that it was at No. 32 Broadway. It has branches in Cleveland, Chicago, and Toronto.

Assigned Orr took charge of the offices this morning. He says the liabilities would be about \$10,000, but he would not know for certain for a week or so. He said he had no idea what the assets were. H. W. Frary, whose whereabouts could not be learned today, is not a member of any exchange.

The firm has been considered one of the most successful of its kind in Wall Street. Frary had a large business and until recently was able to pay all profits made by his customers.

## THE WEATHER FOR CHRISTMAS.

### Generally Fair Except in Mountains and Middle States.

According to the Weather Bureau, the weather on Christmas Day will be generally fair, except along the Lakes and in the mountain districts of the Middle States.

Snow flurries are probable. Moderate temperature is promised.

## Manufacturer Kills Himself.

CHICAGO, Dec. 24.—James A. Todd, of Newburyport, Mass., one of the largest silverware manufacturers in the United States, committed suicide during the night in his office by apoplexy. Overwork is believed to have unbalanced his mind. His home was at La Grange, a suburb. His wife is in the East.

## Launching of Battleship Missouri.

Saturday morning, December 28, at Newport News. Take Norfolk and Washington steamer leaving foot Seventh Street, Friday, 6:30 p. m. See add page 7.



## FRIENDS MAY TAKE UP FIGHT.

### Latest Developments in the Schley Controversy.

## GENERAL MILES RETURNS TODAY.

### His Possible Retirement Again Being Discussed—Likelihood of a Request for a Court of Enquiry and Its Outcome.

Friends of General Miles, Admiral Dewey, and Rear Admiral Schley are today discussing the feasibility of a movement in the interest of a vindication of these three officials—Miles, who has been censured for discussing the Schley case; Dewey, whose separate verdict in the Schley case was disapproved by the Secretary of the Navy, and Schley, the applicant for an enquiry in connection with the Santiago campaign. Concerted action on the part of the admirers of these officers is the talk.

## Little Can Be Done Now.

But little, if anything, can be done during the recess of Congress and at this season of the year, but there is already a movement on foot or will be started soon among the friends of these officers.

The matter is not now in such shape as to enable anyone to talk about it with any degree of authority, but, despite the influence of the Administration to have the Schley matter and all questions bearing upon it dropped, it is still the main topic of conversation in official and private circles at the Capital.

The intimation is that the friends of Dewey, Miles, and Schley will decide upon some plan which will secure a vindication.

There have been so many frowns upon the suggestion of a Congressional investigation of the Schley case that that seems impossible, but Congress is the only branch of the Government to which these officers can, it is said, now look with any hope of obtaining what they desire.

## General Miles Returns Today.

General Miles is expected home this afternoon, but no one is authorized to say what he will do in regard to the censure which he received.

There is nothing in the Army Regulations making it mandatory upon the President to grant General Miles a court of enquiry in case he should request it. Such matters are left to the discretion of the President. Judging from the action already taken by the President in reprimanding General Miles, both officially and personally, there is no reason to believe that he would grant any request of the General for a court of enquiry. The President is extremely anxious that the whole matter be dropped, but if General Miles persists in keeping the subject alive it is asserted that he will be summarily dealt with and placed upon the retired list. It is within the President's power to take such action without reference to a court of any kind.

## Old Enough to Be Retired.

On August 8 last General Miles reached the age of sixty-two years, after which the President may place him on the retired list. It is an open secret in the War Department that the late President McKinley would have retired General Miles had it not been for certain political influences which were friendly to the General's interests. At that time the matter went so far that General Miles was given an opportunity to ask for retirement, which he refused to do.

It is said at the War Department that a request for a court of enquiry by General Miles would afford to the department a most favorable opportunity to retire him without further remark.

Both Major General Brooke and Major General Otis will retire within the next

## SHAW TO TAKE GAGE'S PLACE.

### His Acceptance of Treasury Portfolio Probable.

## IOWA'S GOVERNOR ON THE WAY HERE

### Refuses to Discuss the Offer, Which Is Expected to Come as a Christmas Gift—Effect of His Selection on the West.

President Roosevelt announced to several of his visitors this morning that he had offered the Treasury portfolio to Gov. Leslie M. Shaw, of Iowa. Governor Shaw is on his way to Washington and will reach here tomorrow morning. No word was received at the White House from Governor Shaw this morning.

Inasmuch as one Iowa man, Secretary Wilson, of the Agricultural Department, already occupies a place in the Cabinet, the political prophets had not dreamed that another man from the same State would be taken into the President's official family.

## Wilson's Retirement May Follow.

Now that the tender has been made, it is thought it presages the retirement of Secretary Wilson. The offer was certainly a surprise to Mr. Wilson, for he said, when questioned about it:

"With the possible exception of Secretary Root, I do not believe a man in the Cabinet knew about it."

Senator Lodge of Massachusetts, who is generally credited with being the Warwick of the present Cabinet, was at the White House this morning as usual, but refused to talk about the matter. Secretary Cortelyou said that up to noon no word had been received from Governor Shaw.

## Gage Ready to Withdraw.

After the Cabinet meeting today Secretary Gage said that if Governor Shaw accepted the place, he (Gage) would let him take charge at any time. "I will make my convenience entirely suit his," said Mr. Gage. "If he is to take the office January 1, February 1, or March 1, my resignation will be in the President's hands to let him in."

## Another Cabinet Member, Discussing the Probability of Governor Shaw's Acceptance of the Treasury Portfolio, Said:

"I think it is all settled. Had it not been, I think the President would have said something about it at the Cabinet meeting. I do not believe that Governor Shaw's appointment will disturb Secretary Wilson. I feel sure that the President would not under any circumstances lose him."

## As for the precedent that is against two men from the same State holding places in the Cabinet, I do not believe that will have any force with President Roosevelt. He is a man who cares very little about precedent. If he thought it best for the public good he would appoint all Iowans to the Cabinet."

## His Acceptance Expected.

Although Governor Shaw has declined to say whether or not he would accept a place in the Cabinet, on the ground that it has not yet been offered him, he is quoted as saying that any Iowa man should feel deeply honored to take a position as one of the President's official family.

## Among the few callers at the White House today the name of Governor Shaw in connection with the Treasury Secretaryship found favorable comment. His financial ability is unquestioned. He is thoroughly a Western man, one who is in touch with Western conditions and who commands respect in the East.

## Should Governor Shaw accept the place he would probably not become the head of the Treasury before March 1. That is the date when Mr. Gage desires to retire.

## Library for Akron, Ohio.

AKRON, Ohio, December 24.—As a Christmas gift Akron received \$70,000 from Andrew Carnegie for a library.

## Denies Today That He Has Been Tendered Cabinet Place.

CLEVELAND, Dec. 24.—Col. Myron T. Herrick stated this morning that he had not been, nor did he expect to be, offered the position of Secretary of the Treasury in President Roosevelt's Cabinet. He said:

"I cannot say anything about it because nothing of such a nature has even been mentioned to me from an official source. To be perfectly candid, I will say that I do not think the position will be offered to me. If I know anything about the official sentiment at Washington, and if Ohio is being considered in regard to Cabinet appointments, I should say that Judge Taft, of Cincinnati, Civil Governor of the Philippines, is the most likely candidate."